IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 20, 26, 36, 39-41, 44, and 45. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claims 1-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): A [[data]] communication system comprising:

a source node;

one or more destination nodes, each of which includes a receiving buffer; and

a controller adapted to set a logical connection between [[a]] the source node and the one or more destination nodes, wherein

the source node is adapted to transfer ~~one or more~~ segment data ~~asynchronously using~~ with address information relating to a portion of the receiving buffer to each of the one or more destination nodes via the logical connection,

each of the one or more destination nodes is adapted to store the ~~one or more~~ segment data in [[a]] the receiving buffer, and

each of the one or more destination nodes ~~notifies~~ is adapted to notify information about a size of the receiving buffer to the source node ~~using~~ via the logical connection after a preparation for receiving the ~~one or more~~ segment data is completed.

Claims 21-25 (canceled)

Sub B'

Claim 26 (currently amended): A [[data]] communication method comprising steps of:

setting a logical connection between a source node and one or more destination nodes, wherein each of the one or more destination nodes includes a receiving buffer;

transferring ~~one or more~~ segment data ~~asynchronously using~~ with address information relating to a portion of the receiving buffer from the source node to each of the one or more destination nodes via the logical connection;

storing the ~~one or more~~ segment data in [[a]] the receiving buffer of each of the one or more destination nodes; and

notifying information about a size of the receiving buffer from each of the one or more destination nodes to the source node ~~using~~ via the logical connection after a preparation for receiving the ~~one or more~~ segment data is completed.

Cont C'

Claims 27-35 (canceled)

Sub B'

Claim 36 (currently amended): A [[data]] communication system according to claim 20, wherein the source node transfers information indicating the logical connection is ~~different from a logical connection set by another controller~~ with the segment data.

Claims 37 and 38 (canceled)

Sub B'

Claim 39 (currently amended): A [[data]] communication system according to

claim 20, wherein the source node and the one or more destination nodes include a data communication unit that conforms with an IEEE1394-1995 standard.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A [[data]] communication system according to claim 20, wherein the ~~one or more~~ segment data ~~include~~ includes one of image data and audio data.

Claim 41 (currently amended): A [[data]] communication method according to claim 26, wherein the transferring step transfers the information indicating the logical connection ~~is different from a logical connection set by another controller~~ with the segment data.

Claims 42 and 43 (canceled)

Claim 44 (currently amended): A [[data]] communication method according to claim 26, wherein the source node and the one or more destination nodes include a data communication unit that conforms with an IEEE 1394-1995 standard.

Claim 45 (currently amended): A [[data]] communication method according to claim 26, wherein the ~~one or more~~ segment data ~~include~~ includes one of image data and audio data.